(c) and (d) The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 provides for constitution of a Central Advisory Board to advise the Government on matters relating to establishment and maintenance of homes, mobilization of resources, provision of facilities for education, tracing and rehabilitation of children in need of care and protection and juvenile in conflict with law and coordination among the various concerned official agencies. The subject matter was being handled by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment earlier. After transfer of the subject to this Ministry, efforts have been made to reconstitute the Board and holds it meeting. The Ministry of Women and Child Development has been regularly consulting a large number of child welfare experts and representatives of Government and Non-Government Organisations working in this area.

The Ministry of women and Child Development has recently brought out amendments in the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 to make it more child friendly. It has also formulated a new scheme "Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS)" to have in place a comprehensive child protection framework across the country.

Crime against children

2242. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases booked against employers of children in the past years;

(b) whether any assessment has been made in respect of the number of children employed; and

(c) the schemes and programmes formulated by his Ministry to retrieve the employed children and rehabilitate them by providing education?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) So far, 60,442 prosecutions have been launched against the employers employing child labourers in violation of the provisions of the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986.

(b) As per Census 2001, the number of child labourers in the country is 1.26 crore. This includes children working in both hazardous as well as non-hazardous occupations and processes.

(c) The Ministry of Labour and Employment is implementing the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme in 250 districts of 20 States in the country for withdrawing and rehabilitating children working in hazardous occupations and processes. Under the NCLP Scheme, children withdrawn from work are put in special schools where they are provided education, nutrition, vocational training, stipend and health care so as to provide them with enabling environment to join mainstream education system.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development is also implementing a scheme for welfare of working children in need of care and protection under which Non- Governmental Organisations (NGOs) are assisted for running projects in which bridge education and vocational training are provided to these children.

Awareness regarding girl child

2243. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware about the shocking practice of female foeticide that has grown in the last few decades and reflected in the declining sex ratio;

(b) whether Government are aware educating the people about the value of child will help to balance the sex ratio in the long run rather than to provide a cradle in every district to the abandoned girl child;

(c) whether Government propose to educate the people about the value of girl child;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the details of the steps taken by the various States to educate the people about the value of girl child?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Government is adopting a multi-pronged approach for tackling female foeticide which includes awareness and gender sensitization for enhancing the value of the girl child and also launching schemes for